A MODEST

CHECK

To part of a Scandalous

LIBELL

Intituled the Caſe of Col. *Kyrle*, Capt. *Pury Iunior*, and Captaine *Phillips* concerning WOOD &c.

Wherein the falſe and unworthy Aſpertions caſt upon the *Gentlemen* of *BRISTOLL*, and ſome others, late Commiſſioners, for the enquiring into, and preventing the Waſts of the Forreſt of Deane are wipe d off, their Integrity vindicated, and other things occaſionally touched at.

By Captaine *George Biſhope*, a Citizen of *Briſtoll*, and a Joint Commiſſioner.

HAD not the high *provocation* of a ſcurrilous *Libell*, Intituled, *The Caſe of Colonell Kyrle*, &c. Exceedingly preſt me, I had at this time been altogether ſilent, being grieved to the heart, that *England* ſhould bear ſuch unworthy *ſpirits*, who have not only made (in theſe times of danger) ſuch horrid deſtructions of *ſhipping-Timber* (the very *Bulwarke* of the *Nation*) but with a *hardned brow* dare to juſtifie their unparalleld *offences*, with ſcandalous recriminating of thoſe *Gentlemen*, who by *Authority of Parliament*, and out of their deep ſenſe of the miſchiefs thereof, have made an impartial *inquiſition into*, and as faithfull a *returne of* thoſe *ſpoiles* lately committed, and other *Arbitrary*, and inſolent actions: whoſe *uprightneſſe*, *induſtry*, and timeous calling upon the *Parliament* to ſtop the *procreds* of ſuch growing *miſchiefes* (which to their *praiſe* they have heartily conſidered) not only *this*, but *after-ages*, will have cauſe, in a due ſenſe of *gratitude*, to acknowledge.

And indeed I was onee to reſolved not to *honour* ſuch a pack of *untruths* and *ſcandalls* with any *correction*, the *Parliament* by their ſeaſonable *Votes* (notwithſtanding their *Clamours* & *aſperſions*) having juſtified *our proceedings*: But finding a ſtrenuous *Endeavour* in the *Libeller*, to inſinuate into the *world* a belief of their *Innocency* and *merits*, though with the blemiſh ng of the *Parliaments Iuſtice*, and the wounding of the *reputation* of the *Commiſſioners*, and the *City of Briſtoll*; I could no longer permit ſuch a daring *Adverſary* to bid d fiance to ſo much *truth* and *juſtice*, without an *encounter*.

And here I intend not to *refute* the ſeverall branches of the *caſe* exactly, that being an after-intended work, fitter for a *Volume* then a *ſheet*, & which happily will be in *poſitive proofes*, not in *It may bees*, and conjecturall conceits. Yet before I leave this, becauſe the ſubſtance of the *caſe* is the pretenſion of *Authority*, where it will ſerve their *ends*, their *innocency*, *merits*, and the *abuſes* and *breaches* of *Authority* when it ſerves not their *Advantage*; let the *Reader* pleaſe to conſider with me theſe *particulars*, a little to *unvaile* that *myſterie*, and ſo proceed.

2. For the pretenſion of Authority, conſider.

1. That *many* of the *Country-Committee* are the *Creatures* of some that beare the *names* mentioned. who when they *confessed* that some things depending before the *Committee* were *just*, yet dare not to *owne* them, where those *Gentlemen* resolve the contrary, least he that put in their names should *return* them into their pristine condition (as some of them have ingeniously acknowledged) and it is not unknowne, that when any *Spirit* of *Justice* hath appeared, that will not bow to the *Arbitrary* and *unlimitted* will of some men present, the *Committee* (for that time) hath suffered a *dissolution*, and at a *back doore*, those have returned againe, and sate, which would serve that *end*, whereby they are able to colour their unjust actions, with the very *orders* and *formes* of *Authority*.

2. The *Justices* of the *Country* must be of the same *Complexion*, who when they have according to their *Oathes*, done *just* actions, are *threatned* out of them with a *remove* to the *Committee* of *Indempnitie*; who because they are loath to take such a *Journy*, or be *put* out of *power*, (as one of them ingeniously confessed) found a *retreat* to their *just orders*; and such as *stand* to *them*, are *expunged* the *Commission*.

3. The *Officers* of the *Forrest* of *Deane* are *such*, as they themselves have *made*; those formerly in office, that would not be *conjur'd* into *Connivances*, and *breaches* of *Trust*, suffred a *dismisse*, and *forbid* to walke the *Forrest*, to discover the *abuses*.

4. Then if it be considered with the former, that some of the *Gentlemen* named, were in a *Commission* to make *Sale*, and dispose of the *Wood* in the *Forrest*, and upon *pretences* of Sale of *underwood*, *dead*, *and dry wood*, *&c.* and least the *Country* should make *spoile*, gaine *Contracts* from the *Committee* of the *Revenue* (for which one of them is a *Receiver*.) Any *ingenious and impartiall man* will easily see, into what a *faire way* these *Gentlemen* have got, to commit what *destructions* they please, and that under the shaddow of *Authoritie*.

And yet those very *contracts*, to whose *covers* they flie, allow no cutting downe of *Timber-trees*, no *commanding* the *Coards of wood* to be made *above* the *standard* of the *Forrest*, no taking away of *Coards* without *delivery*, No putting *timber*, and the *best Wood* amongst *Roote wood* to passe at 12. d. *the Coard*; No *disobedience and contempt of orders of Parliament*, *Councell of State*, *Lord Generall*, *Committees*, *Commissioners* authorized by *Parliament*, no encouraging the *Cutters* to doe contrary to *order*, though it cost a *thousand pounds*, no forcible taking away of other mens *proprieties*, all which *crimes*, with many more are *deposed* in the *returne* of our *Commission*; upon those *Gentlemen*, whom the *Libeller* would vindicate; Let me give you one or two *Instances* of the truth, of what the *Libeller* asserts, by which his *Credit* in the rest, with the *Innocencie* of the *Gentlemen* may be judged.

The *Libeller* page 3. saith, that *Mr. Purie* charged the *workemen* not to *cut* downe any *trees*, but such as are appointed by the *Preservators*. and that when the *three hundred trees* were cut downe together, it was by *order* of the *Preservators*; and that he caused the *stay* of their cutting into *Coards* till the *Preservators* viewed them; That none of *them* were found to be *timber trees*, and very little *timber* in the *rest*.

Whereas the *Preservators*, and others have *deposed* that *Mr. Purie* was served with the *Order of restraint*, *March* 17. 1648. forbidding the cutting of any more *trees*, and that notwithstanding *foure hundred Oakes* were cut downe by his *Cutters*, and others in the space of foure or five dayes in *Easter-weeke*

last

laſt, and *fourty* ſhortly after that, and that when the *Preſervators* refuſed the deliverie of the *proceeds* of thoſe trees, becauſe contrary *to Order of Parliament*; *Captaine Purie* told *them* paſſionately, that if they would not deliver *them, they* would take *them* themſelves; and another hath *depoſed* that *they* were *maſt timber trees*: Nay, when *one* of his owne *workemen* told him of *the Order of Parliament*, not to *cut* any, he notwithſtanding commanded *him* to *cut, coale, &c.* and that from that time, *ten horſes a day* carry *coals* to his *workes*. The like the *Cutters depoſe* of his *commanding* them to make the *Coards* above the *aſſize*, it being almoſt 4000 *l.* loſſe in 10000 *l.* as will be proved; and his *contending* with *Oldfield* the *Surveior*, becauſe *he* would not deliver him *coards of wood*, as *Roote wood*, *and Stub wood*, which was much of them the *beſt ſort of wood*; and five thouſand *Coard* taken by him, and the other *Iron Maſters* contrary to *Order*, and the *coaling* of neere *foure thouſand Coards* by them, ſince the *Commiſſioners* prohibition. Inſomuch, that the *Coarders* depoſe, that they muſt make the *Coards* above *aſſize*, or they ſhall have *no workes* and the *Officers*, that they are inforced to deliver *Coards* above *aſſize*, and contrary to *order*, leaſt otherwiſe *thoſe take them*, and give *no account* thereof to the *State*. I could alſo give pregnant *Inſtances*, how *Captaine Philips*, encouraged the *Cutters* to *cut* contrary to the *Order* of *Parliament*, though it coſt a *thouſand pound*, and when forbid by *Order*, ſaid, he would *cut*, though one who is a *Member* of the *Counceil of State* were on the *tree*, with many other *groſſe abuſes* and *deſtruction of timber* by *him*, and others; but this I hope, is a ſufficient, *taſte* of the *Innocency* of theſe *Gentlemen*, and the *credit* of the *Libellers vindication*; which with many other particulars, being under the conſideration of the *Honourable Barons* of the *Exchequer*, I ſhall leave to their *Judgements*.

I ſhall paſſe by the *merits* of thoſe *Gentlemen*, who being ſo much in their owne *commendation*, ſeeme to dwell farre from *good Neighbours*, whoſe *Eagle-eyes* have not yet perceived their brave *atchievements*, nor could *I* ever heare (till now) of their *performances*, unleſſe of betraying Truſts, and revolting from the Parliament to the King, and writing ſcandalous books againſt them.

Nor ſhall I ſpeake of their *righteouſneſſe*, which the *returne* of our *Commiſſion* will more fully declare, even in the *running* of that *Gallant Forreſt*, and the ſad cries of the *Country*, by reaſon of *Tyrannicall* and *forcible* taking away of their Furnaces, Forges, *water* Courſes, *deſtruction of their woods*, *hungring and thirſting after their Eſtates*, under ptetence of advancing the *Publique treaſurie*, *contemning and diſobeying Orders of Parliament*, calling them *hedge orders*, and the *Commiſſion under the new Great Seale*, *a hedge Commiſſion*, *braggi:g* that they could make men *ſweare* and *unſweare* what they pleaſed, with many other Outreages of a more groſs *nature*, which my heart doth tremble to think of, and my pen to write. I feare ere long will ſhew to the world: but becauſe this is ſomewhat large; and intended to be produced after another manner ſuddenly. I forbeare at the preſent to nominate them.

The *Libeller*, having thus far proceeded in the *State* of the *caſe*, goes on next to the *condition* of the *Commiſſioners*, whom he ſtiles *Proſecutors*, and with *unparaleld defamations* endeavors to *raviſh* the chaſt *Judgements* of *upright Patriots*, into a *beleife* of their owne *Innocency*, and to *leſſen* the reputation of the *Commiſſioners* and their *ſervice* to the *Common-wealth*.

But why *Proſecutors*? do they any more then their *duty* &c. then what it behoves them as to the returne of their *Commiſſion*, in giving account of it to

them whom it concerns, is the returne of a *Commission* a *Prosecution*? I thought the *Libeller* had understod more *Law* and *reason*.

And yet, why not *Prosecutors*? when the matter they are upon, is of so much concernment to the *very being* of *England*; and which no true *bred Son of hers*, but ought to *prosecute*, and to bring the *Authors* of such *mischeifes* to *Exemplary punishment*: If so be, the destruction of above *fifty thousand Trees of Oake and Beech*: the best part of which were *Timber*, some of them an *Elle and a halfe square*, and some *worth 20 l. a Tree*, in the space of *seaven yeares in one Forrest*, much of which contrary to *Orders* of all *Authority*, the *contemning* and *abusing those Orders and Commissions*, by some that sit within *those walls*; the taking that for 3 sh 2 s. 8 d. & 1 sh. which is worth 30 s. the *forcible taking wood without delivery*, and that *proprieties* of other men, who *groane* under their *oppressions*, but dare not *seek* for *releise*, either at *Law*, or by *Petition*, *with* divers *things* of this *nature*, and the *preservation* of *Timber* (which by *Sequestrations*, *Bishops*, *Deane*, *and Chapter*, *Crowne Lands*, and *Iron works*, is threatned suddenly to be destroyed) but no matter of profecution what is?

Besides, why are we *Prosecutors*, more then the *Parliament*, who *set us* on work? Methinks the *Libeller* should have been more *wise*, then to strike through ours into *their sides*, whose *commands* we have followed, and *highly* to charge the *Parliament* with *Injustice Page 6.* (for whom else can it meane) for proceeding against them as *Malefactors* without *hearing* of them; or calling them to *Answer*, or notice of the *charge* against them, who have made no proceedings upon them but generall *Votes concerning* the preservation of *Timber*, and their particular *offences*, not being as yet brought into *charge* against them, but *may* be in due season.

The Prosecutors (sayeth the *Libeller*) *are such persons, and of such conditions*, as are *expressed*; who as is conceived *procured* themselves to be in the *Commission*.

And here by his *Emphasis*; he would make the world suppose them to be the very *Extract* of *Goales* and *Prisons*, and a *compositum* of *Debauchery*, *Irreligion*, *Drunkennesse*, and other *wickednesses*, when as the *Country* so well knows their *birth*, *breeding*, *manner of life*, *honesty*, *faithfullnesse and activity*, *for the Parliaments service*, that the very *children* are able to give the *lye* to these *scandalls*, and indeed deserves no *Answer*, for if, *Parliamentary Authority*, is not freed from their darts, and *Gentlemen of Honour and Gallantry* called *fooles and asses*, wee must not look for any *better*: A bad Tree cannot bring forth good fruit: Surely the *Libeller* is conscious of so many *miscariages*, that he thinks *all* are of his *complexion*, or at least like *those* whom hee endeavours to *vindicate*. But suppose those, whom he calls *Prosecutors* were guilty of all *those offences*, will *that justifie* the *crimes* of the named *Gentlemen* or *Enervate* the *validity* of those that have *deposed* their *transegressions*? if *Infirmities* shall *invaliditate testimonies*, whose *assertions* shall stand good? The *Question* is not what the *Commissioners* are, but what are the *offences* they *present*? will you be *angry*; if bad men produce *good things*? Surely I think that *a good action* performed by a *bad man*, deserves as much *commendation*, as an *evill one*, from him that *saith* he is *good* doth *punishment*. Certainly the *Commissioners* had not fallen under the *Libellers lash*, had not they *detested* to serve his *lusts* and *humours*.

——Hee saith, (*as may be conceived*, *procured themselves in the Commission*.

Well shot at an adventure, *It may be*—See the ground of *These* bold *calumnies*, it rests upon a *tottering probability*, will the *Libeller* think it honest dealing

ling to be ſet out to the world under the deepeſt *Tincture* of offences with *It may Bee?*

But why, *procure themſelves in the Commiſſion?* will any *rationall man* think, that the *Gentlemen* are ſo *indiſcreet*, as to leave the proſecution of their *Merchandize*, and other neceſſary *employments*, to make many *journeys* into the *Country* with their *ſervants*, there to *ſtay ſeverall dayes* at a time, have 100. *people* attending their buſineſſe, and *dieted* at their own *charge*, take the *depoſitions* of many *hundred perſons*, which *five and twenty skins of Parchment* will hardly containe, *attend* a *hundred miles* diſtance at *London* from day to day, for *five weeks together*, being at neare 200. l. chasge, and proceed upon all this, without ſo much as any promiſe for the *reinburſing* them againe, what they have laid out (though they conceive ſo *Honourably* of the *Parliament*, as that they will make them *ſatisfaction*) I ſay, will any *rationall* man conceive them in their *witts*, to procure themſelves into ſo much *charge* and *trouble* to attend it, had not the *deepe ſenſe* of the concernment of the *buſineſſe*, and their more then ordinary *zeale* to promote ſuch a publique *ſervice* ſet them on work?

How many ſuch *ſervices* hath the *Libeller* and his *vindicates* undergone? ſhould they not rather have given them *thankes*, then ſuch *abuſes*? But ſome of the named *Gentlemen* know, who endeavoured to be in a former *Commiſſion*, 1645. that thereby they might have opportunity to *ſerve themſelves* in the *publicke ruines* of that *gallant Forreſt*, and therefore they are diſpleaſed that the *courſe* of their *gaine* on the *States loſſe*, is *ſtopt*, and do think that *others* are like *themſelves*. Nay, had we procured *our ſelves* to be in the *Commiſſion*, it had beene the more *commendable*, though *for my owne part*, I ſeriouſly profeſſe, I knew not of my *putting in*; nor do I believe did the other *Gentlemen*, whoſe names are (becauſe he is pleaſed not to name them) Ald. *Aldworth*, Ald. *Hodges*, *Members of Parliament*, Ald. *Vickris*, Ald. *Jackeſon*, Ald. *Brown*.

The Libeller now goes on to particulars, where his pen *railes* at Col. *Bromwich*, and Col. *Berrow*, who no doubt but will give a *good account* of themſelves to his ſhame. I ſhall leave them to their *own vindication*, only in the *Generall* ſhall *ſay* and *affirme*, That in all the *proſecution of this buſineſſe*, *I found as much reality, uprightneſſe, and love to publique Juſtice, and as much freedome from Debauchery*, Drunkenneſſe, *Peeviſhneſſe, Irreligion, Scandalouneſſe, Diſaffection to Government, Treaſon, deſtruction of Woods, unworthineſſe, as any I have of late met withall*, *Gentlemen of eſtates*, and *reputation* in the *Countrie*, and *men* to whom this *State* owes much for *former*, and theſe *latter ſervices*, which I ſhould not now *write*, but that the venome of their *aſperſions* in theſe *Gentlemens* reputation ſo much conſtrains me.

I could wiſh, and it would be well; if thoſe named in the *front* of the *Libell* were free from theſe, and greater *offences*, with which they charge theſe *Gentlemen*, which my pen bluſheth to write, the thought thereof aſtoniſhing my ſpirits. It may be ſome that thinke themſelves *unſeen* in this *buſineſſe*, cannot throw the ſtone againſt *Drunkenneſſe* (I write not to *excuſe* it in any.) and I could wiſh they had as much conſcience to *God* and *men*, as they have to their owne *Intereſt*; for which it may be feared they make *Religion a cloake*, which *God* will in time *diſcover*, for *there is nothing hid that ſhall not be revealed* and I wiſh them as *honeſt* to the *publique Intereſt*, as thoſe *Gentlemen* they ſo much *ſcandalize*. It may be they could not follow the *Luxurians Exorbitancies* of ſome *men*, who would be as the *fiſhes in the Sea*, the *greater* to devoure the

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lesser, and it may be like *Christians*, and *tender hearted men* have stept in to save some poore Families, from their *unsatiable hatred and Avarice*, and because of this, have been supposed troublers of *Committees*; when (as I said before) they onely endure such to sit, as will *serve* their *ends*, and privately *Junkto* them together, when the *other thinke*, they are *departed*, and in this *close chamber*, *Mr. Prynnich* is not desired.

As for their *Loyaltie* to the *State*, let the world *judge*, which are more *lovers* of the *Common-wealth*, either they that out of their great sence of the destruction of *Timber*, and therein of the strength of the *Nation*, and of private mens *Tirannizing* over the *estates*, and the proprieties of their *Brethren*, which is in order to the *ruine* of the *Nation*; *owne a Commission*, under the new great *Seal of England*, wherein they undergoe abundance of charge and trouble, and the neglect of all that is *deare* to them, to *redresse* those evills; Or, *those* who have made those destructions, disobedyed the Orders of the *State*, made to prevent those distructions, commanding men to break them; called them *hedge* orders, and the *Commission* under the new great Seale a *hedge Commission*, *openly contemning it*, Revolters, writers of scurrilous books against the Parliament; that have boasted that they have cut downe *foure hundred* trees contrary to an *Order of Parliament*; and notoriously *abuse* and *scandalize* those that through abundance of *Toyle* have brought those *spoyles* to light, and earnestly sollicited for the future redresse of them, which if not remedied, (it being now blessed be God in a good progresse) had exposed us to the cruelty and scorne of our Enemies. I am sure I have heard Colonel *Burrow* say, that though it was his own Brother, yet if he abused the Authority, by which he was protected, he would not beare it; and tis very likely that Master *Pury* Junior knowes, who blessed God, that his father and he had no hand in that——Action of killing the King, and who stood a while *secluded*, as one disaffected to this change of Government, for the rest I leave it to those *Gentlemen* whom it concernes to assert their owne *Innocencie*.

The next in order are the *Citizens of Bristoll*, whom he honours not so much as with a *name*, but tells you -- that some of the Aldermen there did joyne before, or at the beginning of this Parliament, joyned in a bargaine for the destruction of the wood; some *Aldermen of Bristoll*,-- what is that to the *Gentlemen* scandalized? because *Combes* is a robber, therefore *Mr. Pury* is, will he take this for good *Logick*?

And before, or at the beginning of this *Parliament*, what is that to 1649. Its possible that some of those named *Gentlemens blood* ranne in their veines, or else were men *spighted* by *them*; because they could have no *Interest* in the *advantage*, which since they have prosecuted with *vigor proportionable* to the *edge* of their *affections* so long *whetted*, and to the opportunity, that none might *gleane* after them; But can he name any more then *Alderman Taylor*, and *Alderman Gunning*? were not Sir *Baynam Throgmorton*, and Sir *Sacvile Crow*, the chiefe designers? yet I will not become their *Advocate*, the Judgment of one of them is ere this passed in another world, I wish the *Judgement* of these may be onely in this, to *amendment* of life, and *repentance* for their *offences*.

And these things (saith he) *were not complained of*-- if they had not been could we *help* it? tis well that we now *see it* and *complaine*; Are you offended because we are so farre from following the steps of our *Predecessors*, that we *complaine* of those that doe *alike transgresse*? yet if the *Libeller* would but a little

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informe *himselfe*, he would finde that a worthy *Gentleman. Alderman Barkar deceased* (whose memory is precious) did so farre contend about it, that it was the *breaking of his heart*, that he could not *remedie it*.

But the *Libeller* tells us that some of the *Citizens of Bristoll* are the greatest *Ironmasters and Ironmongers* in the *West of England*; and have great quantities of *Iron*, and are *adventurers* for *Swedish and Spanish Iron, &c.*

The greatest Ironmongers in the west of England, surely the *Libeller* was never *choaked* with a *small bone*: is he such a stranger to the *Forrest Ironmasters?* and for the Iron that is in *Bristoll*, is it not from the Forrest? If it be an offence to sell it, tis a greater to make it. But what is this to the purpose? are any of Commissioners that are of Bristoll Ironmasters, and Ironmongers? If not what designe can they have in the businesse?

But saith he, they are adventures to Swetheland, &c.

Tis true, they named *Swethland and Spaine in their Petition* as an *expedient* to serve the Nation, in case of demolishing the Iron-works here, that are so destructive, but for adventures they are very little, if any at all: But why may they not, as for Wine, &c. since that this is of publique advantage, and running the hazard of the Sea, why should they not have a recompence?

Tis (saith the Libeller) to raise the price of their owne Iron, which this last yeare is fallen from 19 l. a tun, to 15.

Did they doe so, yet they are but quit with those Gentlemen, who being asked why they sold their Iron, two or three pounds in a tun cheaper then others, and how they could afford it, one said, he had wood for nothing,; the other for a groat a Cord *Col. Kerls*, and Captaine *Braine* can tell you, who it meanes: and herein be thine owne Judge Libeller, whether tis not thine envying at another mans prosperity, not the publique advantage of the Nation; that thou art so much troubled.

And do thou be judge O *Reader*, how much the *Libeller* makes conscience of what he asserts, whereas not one single man of the Commissioners of *Bristol*, or those Gentlemen in the Petition from thence had ever any thing to do with the Iron works, or any thing that belongs to it, nor have they 20. tun of Iron lying by them of Forraign or Domestick whatsoever, we also adde our desire that he that hath any selfe ends in this businesse, may hve the vizard of his Hypocrisy plucked off, himselfe placed upon *Pauls* steeple for a wonder to the world.

All which appears (saith hee) *by the manuagement of their commission, for it is well knowne, that in the Woodwardship of Avan Hall there were* 10000. *Trees cut downe, and at least* 10000. *more in other places &c.* It seemes the *Libeller* is a good Accountant, and hath taken some paines in the Survey of the Forrest, it had been well, if he had manifested so much Ingenuity as to have told the rest; and saved the State and us, so much charge and labour: But he might have forborne his censure, till he had seen our returne, and then he would have found, that the forbid Oakes of an Ell and halfe square, some of them worth 20 l. a Tree, soune, and not so much as shrowded, and some thousands more (If I mistake not) *proved upon the Iron Masters out of that Woodwardship*: If he had not a full account of all things, we may thanke Capt. *Purie* with the others in the Vindicative, who with their abusing of the Authority of Parliament, and other Tyrannicall actions; made the Country in a great measure to desert us, he might also have told us of 4000. Trees cut downe in a yeare in *Ruardeane* by Captaine *Purie* and others, wherein were many Timber Trees, and not above two of those marked now standing, also 8000 Timber Trees cut by the Vindicates in

And

And no mention made (saith the Libeller) in their Petition of the spoiles by the Inhabitants &c.

What he means by the *Inhabitants*, I cannot vvell tell, doubtlesse the *Colliers* vvho *serve* their *furnaces*, vvere the *choise*, for *others*, the Officer-keept them *bare* enough, even of the very *Priviledges* due to them of *Plough-bote*, *House boote*, &c. yet have vvee in our returne set dovvne as many, as vve could possible heare of, vvithout respect of *persons*, though they neither mentioned the one, nor other in their *Petition*: It seemes it greives them that any *water* runs besides their *Mill*. Nay so *Exact* were vvee, that vvhat ever vve cold heare of against any of *Bristoll*, or against *Col Berrow a Commissioner*, vve have *returned*, though vve found that vvhat *Colonell Berrow* vvas *charged with*, vvas either *his* by the grant of *Ed. Lord Woodward*, or what the very *Officers* that presented him, have *cleared*; which will *appeare* when it comes to *triall*.

But they petition that the Iron works may be presently razed, though set up by Authority of Parliament to enrich themselves &c.

And well may they, and such Persons also as notorious Malefactors that make no *conscience* to ruine the *Nation* for their *advantage*, and that become *advocates* for such Offendors; whom I cannot conceive but to be worse *Members of the Common-wealth*, then the Papists and Malignants, they chalenge *some* to protect.

Tis true, the *Parliament* might permit them setting them up for Good ends, and they can upon better Accounts, pluck them downe without your leave Sir, when they appeare (as by the vindicates management) so *destructive*; and you too also, *who ever you are*, if you be discovered and found to be a *burthen*, an *Achan* to the Common-wealth, of which I wish you to beware, and look to, for the *bowre of Temptation*, *The day of the Lord is at hand*, he is as a *refiners fire* and will throughly purge his floore, and take heed least you say, that day is terrible, and who can endure it? *And all to inrich themselves &c.*

This is never out of the *Libellers* mouth, *Enrich, Enrich*, theres the *Plague*, should not now *write*; but that the venome of their *aspersions* in these *Gentlemen*, reputation so much *constraines* me.

To conclude, *Reader*, I am assured that no *selfish end* drew these *Gentlemen* of *Bristoll* to this *difficult undertaking*, nor the *Magistrates* or *Merchants* of *Bristoll* in their *Petition*, but a *deep sense* of a *growing mischiefe*, to which they were *nearly seated*, and as *nearly concerned*, for which they receive this *recompence of scandal*. But I will tell *thee*, what is the reason of the *throwing* of all this *dirt*, (viz.) *Because they would not be courted by sugred Expressions*, *nor entertain the Civill offer of* 2000. l. *advantage in Cann. Wood*, *which was tendered at Lidney*, *to one of the* Aldermen, Sept. 12. 1649. *by one of their* Creatures *as fit for the* Merchants *of* Bristol.

I say because none of these things would prevail with them to be false to their Trust, not by the telling them the Forrest was destroyed, & not be remained worth our labour, and what was left the Parliament was resolved to sell, for the Souldiers Arrears, to neglect their duty, therefore they have discharged their malice against them in black Calumnies, and intollerable reproaches, of which we hope the *Parliament* will be so sensible, that we who freely have undergone so much trouble, charge, and reproach in the management of a businesse of so high concernment, shall be justified from these great abuses, and Capt. *Pury* and the rest he called to a strict *account* for abusing and disobeying their *Orders*, *Commissions*, and *Commands*, lest such presidents remaining unpunished, both our selves and others be thereby concluded under all discouragements to ex[illegible] ny of their Commissions, or complain of any grievances for the future: And that provision may be made for the effectuall preservation of Timber throughout all *England*, (in which they have made a happy progress) and which we desire God to blesse them in, and in all other good things for the recovery of this Common-wealth.

FINIS.